

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 27, 28, and 30-33 and allowed claims 1, 3-15, and 18-26. By way of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 3, 4, 15, and 32 have been amended to correct typographical errors, claim 27 has been amended, and claims 2, 16, 17, 29-31, and 33 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-15, 18-28, and 32 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and are believed to render all pending claims at issue patentably distinct over the cited references.

I. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claim 33 was rejected as allegedly being indefinite. However, claim 33 has been cancelled; thus, the rejection under 35 USC § 112 is now moot.

II. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 27, 28, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,490,950 to Dryer (Dryer). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 27 relates to an optical plug and has been amended to now recite, *inter alia*, a substantially conical second section coupled to the first section, the second section having a second larger dimension for positioning in said platen and a threaded portion.

Dryer discloses a fuse construction that includes a casing having a threaded aperture within which a transparent plug is screwed. The plug includes an extension. However, nowhere does Dryer suggest or even teach a plug having a substantially conical section. Accordingly, as Dryer fails to disclose, either explicitly or inherently, at least the above-noted element of claim 27 and the Examiner has failed to provide such an explicit or inherent disclosure of this element, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims and the claims that depend therefrom is improper and the Applicants request withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection.

III. CONCLUSION

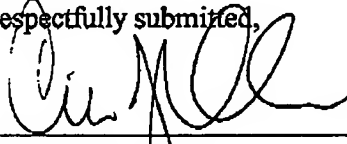
In view of Applicants' remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed overcome. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or has not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Dated

12/6/04

Respectfully submitted,



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